



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Rock Island Field Office
4469 48th Avenue Court

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Tel: 309/793-5800 Fax: 309/793-5804

IN REPLY REFER
TO:

FWS/RIFO

March 13, 2001

Lidia A. Pilecky, P.E.
CH2M Hill
8501 West Higgins Road
Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60631-2801

Dear Mr. Pilecky:

This letter responds to request for information regarding the presence of federally threatened or endangered species within the project area for I-74 Corridor Improvement between 23rd Avenue in Moline, Rock Island County, Illinois, and 53rd Street in Bettendorf, Scott County, Iowa. We have the following comments.

To facilitate compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Federal agencies are required to obtain from the Fish and Wildlife Service information concerning any species, listed or proposed to be listed, which may be present in the area of a proposed action. Therefore, we are furnishing you the following list of species which may be present in the concerned area:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Common Name (Scientific Name)</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Endangered	Higgins' eye pearly mussel (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>)	Mississippi River
Threatened	Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Wintering

The endangered Higgins' eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) is listed for the Mississippi River north of Lock and Dam 20, which includes Rock Island County, Illinois, and Scott County, Iowa. This species prefers sand/gravel substrates with a swift current and is most often found in the main channel border or an open, flowing side channel.

While there is no designated critical habitat, the Higgins' eye Recovery Team has designated habitats essential to the recovery of the species. The essential habitat in Sylvan Slough, Rock

Island, Illinois (river mile 485.4-486L), is nearly centered under the existing I-74 bridge near the Illinois shoreline. Any project alternatives requiring construction in or near this known Higgins' eye mussel bed are likely to require a biological assessment.

When conducting a biological assessment, the following steps should be taken:

1. Conduct an on-site inspection of the area affected by the proposed activity or program. This may include a detailed survey to determine if species are present and whether suitable habitat exists for either expanding the existing population or potential reintroduction of populations.
2. Interview recognized experts on the species at issue, including those within the Fish and Wildlife Service, state conservation department, universities and others who may have data not yet found in scientific literature.
3. Review literature and other scientific data to determine the species' distribution, habitat needs and other biological requirements.
4. Review and analyze the effects of the proposal on the species in terms of individuals and populations, including consideration for the cumulative effects of the proposal on the species and its habitat.
5. Analyze alternative actions that may provide conservation measures.

The threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as wintering along large rivers, lakes and reservoirs in *Rock Island County, Illinois and in Scott County, Iowa (* counties that contain night roosts). During the winter, this species feeds on fish in the open water areas created by dam tailwaters, the warm water effluents of power plants and municipal and industrial discharges, or in power plant cooling ponds. The more severe the winter, the greater the ice coverage and the more concentrated the eagles become. They roost at night in groups in large trees adjacent to the river in areas that are protected from the harsh winter elements. They perch in large shoreline trees to rest or feed on fish. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. The eagle may not be harassed, harmed, or disturbed when present nor may nest trees be cleared.

These comments provide technical assistance only and do not constitute the report of the Secretary of the Interior on the project within the meaning of Section 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, do not fulfill the requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, nor do they represent the review comments of the U.S. Department of the Interior on any forthcoming environmental statement.

Lidia A. Pilecky, P.E.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. My staff is available to assist you in determining the need for conducting a biological assessment as you proceed through the planning process. If you have any questions please contact Heidi Woeber of my staff at 309/793-5800, extension 517.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Fischer
for Richard C. Nelson
Supervisor

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

210 Walnut Street
693 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

March 19, 2001

Ref: IM-74-1(122)0-13-82
Scott County, IA
Rock Island County, IL

Ms. Lidia A. Pilecky, P.E.
CH2M Hill
8501 West Higgins Road
Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60631-2801

Dear Ms. Pilecky:

I have reviewed the CH2M Hill proposed planning and preliminary design studies you submitted for the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation on the Interstate 74 corridor at the Quad Cities. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) concerns lie in the methods of construction, control of soil erosion during that process, and the potential negative effects on the surrounding ecosystem. Submission of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form 1006, to the NRCS district conservationists will begin the process of identifying the impacts on agricultural land. If you have any site specific questions, feel free to contact the local NRCS office listed below.

Paul P. Viner
District Conservationist
8370 Hillandale Road
Davenport, Iowa 52806-6449
(319) 391-1403

Sincerely,


Leroy Brown
State Conservationist



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

July 10, 2001

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

Mr. Jim Rost
Director
Office of Environmental Services
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010

RECEIVED
JUL 16 2001
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Dear Mr. Rost:

I received your letter dated May 25, 2001, concerning the I-74 Iowa-Illinois Corridor Study in Bettendorf, Iowa, and Moline, Illinois. Rock Island District staff reviewed the information you provided and have the following comments:

a. Your project crosses the Bettendorf Local Flood Protection project levee. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) also has an easement for the government sewer, which lies beneath the levee under the I-74 Bridge in Bettendorf, Iowa. Work around that area will require Corps review of project plans for potential impacts to these facilities. There is also a large diameter 1980 era, area-wide sanitary collector sewer that parallels the government sewer and is about 50 to 100 feet inland. This sewer is not within our purview, but is included as information to which you should be made aware. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Mr. Robert Riebe of our Engineering Division. You may reach Mr. Riebe by writing to our address above, ATTN: Engineering Division (Robert Riebe), or by telephoning 309/794-5507.

b. Any proposed placement of fill or dredged material into waters of the United States (including wetlands) requires Department of the Army authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A Section 404 permit will be required for this project. When detailed information is available, please complete and submit the enclosed application packets to the Rock Island District for processing (enclosures). The applications should include determinations of wetlands and other waters of the United States, size estimations of impacts to those areas, and wetland types and relative functions.

Prior to completing the permit review process and in compliance with the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, we also require sequential mitigation involving an alternatives analysis, minimization of impacts, and compensatory mitigation for any unavoidable impacts. The alternatives analysis must demonstrate how you will avoid impacts by selecting the least

environmentally damaging practicable alternative based on wetland sizes, locations, types, and relative functions. Minimization of impacts should consist of a list of appropriate and practicable steps to minimize unavoidable adverse impacts. Compensatory mitigation must include plans to restore or create wetlands to mitigate unavoidable project wetland impacts. If you have any questions regarding permit requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, please contact Mr. Neal Johnson of our Regulatory Branch. You may reach Mr. Johnson by writing to our address above, ATTN: Regulatory Branch (Neal Johnson), or by telephoning 309/794-5379.

c. The Responsible Federal Agency should coordinate with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62701 and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Officer, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 to determine impacts to historic properties.

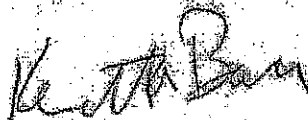
d. The Rock Island Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be contacted to determine if any federally listed endangered species are being impacted and, if so, how to avoid or minimize impacts. The Rock Island Field Office address is: 4469 - 48th Avenue Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201. Mr. Rick Nelson is the Field Supervisor. You can reach him by calling 309/793-5800.

e. Due to manpower and funding limitations, we are not able to fulfill the responsibilities normally expected of a cooperating agency and must decline your request. However, we will review and coordinate as funding and time allow in addition to our routine procedures within our authorization.

No other concerns surfaced during our review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal. If you need more information, please call Mr. Randy Kracun of our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5174.

You may find additional information about the Corps' Rock Island District on our web site at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>. To find out about other Districts within the Corps, you may visit web site: <http://www.usace.army.mil/divdistnsp.html>.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Economic and Environmental
Analysis Branch

Enclosures



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

DEC 21 2001

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2001
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

James Rost, Director
Office of Environmental Services
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

RE: I-74 Iowa-Illinois Corridor Study Concurrence

Dear Mr. Rost:

This letter is in response to concurrence for the range of alternatives explored and the alternatives which are to be carried forward for further analysis in the I-74 Iowa-Illinois Corridor Study. After consulting with Region 5, the EPA concurs and has no objections to the alternatives in the study. However, we would like to offer the following comments in order to reinsure that these issues are given full consideration in the alternative analysis process:

- We recommend that a bike/pedestrian crossing over the Mississippi River be included as an element of the Build Alternatives.
- We recommend that the river crossing alignment option(s) carried forward for further analysis avoid impacts to field delineated wetlands WT-5 and WT-6.
- The roadway alternative(s) carries forward for further analysis should be fully coordinated with both the Illinois and Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the I-74 concurrence meeting on December 5, 2001. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 913-551-7805.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Rocha

Nicholas Rocha
NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Services Division

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2832
Staff Symbol: obr
Phone: (314) 539-3900, Ext 2382
Fax: (314) 539-3755
Email:

16591.1/485.8 UMR
28 April 2003

Ms. Laura Lutz-Zimmerman
Office of Location and Environment
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Subj: PROPOSED IOWA-ILLINOIS MEMORIAL DUAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT,
MILE 485.8, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Dear Ms. Lutz-Zimmerman:

This is in reply to your letter of 30 March 2003, inviting our comments on the revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. The Coast Guard reviewed the document from the perspective of assessing the impacts of bridge construction on navigation and the environment. The following comments must be addressed in the final EIS document:

a. A statement that the Coast Guard has served as a cooperative agency for NEPA purposes when evaluating impacts of the proposed bridge project on navigation and the environment should be included in the document.

b. A section titled "Navigation Impacts" must be added to address the Upper Mississippi River in terms of the river transportation it supports and the impacts construction will have on river traffic. Include data on the number, size, and types of vessels currently using the waterway as a basis for evaluating impacts to navigation and mitigation measures proposed to minimize these impacts. This information should be compared with past records and projected future trends for the waterway to better understand how the new bridge will not compromise navigation safety and efficiency.

c. Include a statement that the requirements for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be fulfilled to the satisfaction of both the Iowa and Illinois State Historical Preservation Officer.

d. Since a bridge permit is required for the project the Coast Guard will need a Water Quality Certificate from both Iowa and Illinois state agencies, which states that the project complies with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. These certificates are separate from the Section 404 permit required by the Corps of Engineers.

e. Tribal Lands – The impact of the project on tribal lands sites must be addressed.

f. When demolishing the bridge, the impacts to navigation and environment must be addressed.

16591.1/485.8 UMR
28 April 2003

Subj: PROPOSED IOWA-ILLINOIS MEMORIAL DUAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT,
MILE 485.8, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Please provide the above requested additional information in order that this document will be acceptable to the Coast Guard. We will also need a final copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. Please contact Mr. David Orzechowski at the above telephone number if you have questions regarding our comments or requirements.

Sincerely,



ROGER K. WIEBUSCH
Bridge Administrator
By direction of the District Commander

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2003
OFFICE OF LOCATION & ENVIRONMENT